

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4, 6-8, 14, and 17 will have been amended, while claims 5, 9-13, 18, and 19 will have been canceled.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action, together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application by the return of the initialed and signed copy of the PTO-1449 Form accompanying the Information Disclosure Statement filed herein.

Applicants further note with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and the filing of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Finally, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection, and to overcome the obviousness type double patenting rejection.

Initially, the Examiner has objected to the drawings as requiring a "prior art" legend. In response to the Examiner's objection, Applicants have attached

sheets of drawings that include the addition of the prior art legend to figures 11-20 as required by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected the claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1 and 14, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection, however Applicants have amended these claims in order to expedite prosecution. In this regard claim 1 has been amended to recite a "laminator" in order to make the claim language more explicit. Similarly, claim 14 has been amended to recite a "superimposing" to form the adhesive layer in order to make the claim language more explicit. With this modification, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 14 are not indefinite and the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection has been overcome.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 3 and 4, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection, however Applicants have amended these claims in order to expedite prosecution. Specifically, Applicants have amended these claims to set forth that the apparatus is configured to use the specific type of adhesive. Applicants respectfully assert that, as amended, this does further limit claim 1 and the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection has been overcome. Applicants further respectfully assert that

the above noted amendment also overcomes the objection to these claims for the same reasons.

With respect to the claim 6 rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's position, however Applicants have amended these claims in order to expedite prosecution. In this regard, Applicants have amended claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, to recite a laminator that is configured to superimpose. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the questions that the Examiner raised with respect to claim 6 are now moot and the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection is also moot.

With respect to claim 8 rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants note that the disclosed warping preventer comprises e.g. the lower and upper straightening plates 28 and 29 that are shown in figure 7. The warp preventer is discussed in detail in the specification on page 34, lines 19-21. On the other hand, with respect to claim 2, the provisional bonder is shown as e.g. block 600 in figure 1. The provisional bonder or temporary holding device is described in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 20-21. With this clarification, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 8 is not indefinite and Applicants assert that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection has been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234. Next, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No.

JP 4-57234, and Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242. The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 7, 8, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, and Japanese Patent No. JP 4-139630. The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, and U.S. Patent No. 5,227,213 to KOMORI et al. Then the Examiner has rejected claims 6, 12, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, Japanese Patent No. JP 5-20713, Japanese Patent No. JP 62-12940, and Japanese Patent No. JP 8-36786. Next, the Examiner has rejected claims 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, Japanese Patent No. JP 5-20713, Japanese Patent No. JP 62-12940, Japanese Patent No. JP 8-36786, and Japanese Patent No. JP 4-139630. The Examiner has rejected claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, KOMORI et al., and Applicants' admitted prior art, or Japanese Patent No. JP 60-125212. Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-572234,

Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, KOMORI et al., and Admitted Prior Art, or Japanese Patent No. JP 60-125212, U.S. Patent no. 5,518,569 to ACHILLES et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,850,425 to ANDERSON. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that each of these rejections is inappropriate.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 1 and 14, Applicants submit that the Examiner is incorrect in the assertion that these claims are anticipated or obvious in view of one or more Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, European Patent No. EP 706178, Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, and Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present applicant, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to recite a high pressure air source or supplying high pressure air. These recitations are supported, for example, in the specification on page 43, lines 9-14 which correspond to figure 10.

In the rejection, the Examiner has referred to figures 1 and 2 of JP 4-57234 as disclosing a centerer that comprises divided shaft members 18 and 20. These shaft members, the Examiner asserted, move in opposite directions to engage the inner diameter of holes 12a and 14a. The JP 4-57234 reference discloses fitting a first substrate 2 to a upper jig 6 and a second substrate 4 to a lower jig 8 and the two shaft members 18 and 20 are pushed downward and guided by a tapered shaft portion 24a of a guided member 24. This moves shafts 18 and 20 away from one another to contact holes 12a and 14a to align the two substrates. Because the substrates are centered through the operation of the above noted mechanical

components, the contact force can become large and there is a potential to cause damage to the substrates. Moreover, the JP 4-57234 disclosure requires a holding spring 32 in addition to the above noted components. Therefore the JP 4-57234 device can require a substantial amount of space in order to contain the various components.

On the contrary, the present disclosed invention has a centerer that includes at least two contact pins that are configured to simultaneously contact an inside circumferential surface of the center holes of the substrate through the use of a high pressure source 41 that supplies air pressure to the contact pins. These pins retractably extend in a radial direction to press against the substrates. Thus, the disclosed invention potentially causes less damage to the substrates and has less mechanical parts and can be more compact.

Thus, with respect to the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on anticipation cannot be properly maintained without a disclosure of each and every element. Here the applied reference fails to disclose a supply of high pressure air as in independent claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. EP 706178 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, and Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, a

rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on obviousness cannot be properly maintained without a proper disclosure of each and every element and the motivation to combine and modify these elements to achieve the claimed invention. Here the applied references fail to provide any motivation that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the references to supply a high pressure air source. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

With regard to dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 6-8, and 15-17, Applicant asserts that they are allowable on their own merit and at least because they depend on one of independent claims 1 and 14, which Applicants submit have been shown to be allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 9 and 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,309,485. With respect to this rejection, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's obviousness type double patenting rejections of the claims. Specifically, with respect to the obviousness-type double patenting and provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections, 35 U.S.C. § 121, third sentence, prohibits obviousness-type double patenting rejections in a divisional application based on a patent that was a parent application that was subject to a restriction requirement. See MPEP section 804.01. However, Applicant has canceled claim 5 in order to expedite prosecution.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claim 9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 10 and 11 of copending application 09/887,081. Regarding the rejection, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's obviousness type double patenting rejections of the claims. Nevertheless, Applicant has canceled claim 9 in order to expedite prosecution.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 10 and 11 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 10 and 11 of copending application 09/887,081 in view of admitted prior art or ACHILLES et al. and ANDERSON. In response to this rejection applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's obviousness type double patenting rejections of the claims, as noted above. However, Applicant has canceled claims 10 and 11 in order to expedite prosecution.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 12, 13, 18, and 19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 of copending application 09/887,082 in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-57234, Japanese Patent No. JP 61-292242, and Japanese Patent No. JP 4-139630. Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's obviousness type double patenting rejections of the claims, as noted above. However, Applicant has canceled claims 12, 13, 18, and 19 in order to expedite prosecution.

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in any proper combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as

defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above remarks,
reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application
are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

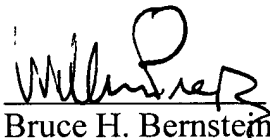
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have pointed out the specific language of Applicants' claims that define over the references of record and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

The amendments to the claims made in this amendment have not been made to overcome the prior art, and thus, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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October 30, 2003
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